Trucks/Vans under PDS Infrastructure

3865. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the purpose of strengthening of PDS infrastructure trucks/vans are also provided to make available essential commodities in rural/hilly/remote areas;

(b) whether Government subsidise the cost of such vehicles, if so, the amount paid during the last three years; and

(c) the number of trucks/vans and in whose custody these vehicles are maintained and what has been the average life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Financial assistance has been provided to State/UTs of under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'purchase of vans/trucks' for strengthening of PDS upto 2001-2002.

The assistance provided under the scheme was in the form of 50% subsidy and 50% loan. The amount sanctioned to the States/Union Territories and the number of vehicles purchased during the last 3 years is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of vehicles
1999-2000	106.275	9
2000-2001	98.930	20
2001-2002	30.000	4

The vehicles remain in the custody of respective State Governments/Union Territories who are responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles.